



ISSA BULLETIN

2026 Issue 2

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Introduction



Welcome to our second bulletin issue of 2026.

This year we've had our joint Congress with EASS, held at University of Jyväskylä, Finland. What a wonderful Congress this was, in a wonderful setting: Jyväskylä sits by a large lake which offers circular tracks for walking, running and cycling, as well as beach access for swimming in silky water. Some of us took full advantage of this. The Congress was timed to coincide with the solstice and we all enjoyed the long days although it was very odd to go to bed in broad daylight! You will find much in this bulletin that relates to key moments of this joint Congress, with a few words from Parissa, ISSA's President and a photographic record of our award winners (also showcased on our website!). I personally would like to highlight the excellent mix of academic papers by early careers and more experienced scholars and a very imaginative social programme that enabled delegates to make the most of what the area, and Finnish life more generally, has to offer.

We also have updates about our forthcoming events. The 2027 ISA Congress will be held next July in Gwangju, S. Korea, where we hope to run a full programme of presentations in RC27 (sociology of sport). You still have a few days to submit your abstracts. Things are shaping up nicely too for ISSA 2027 in Melbourne, to be held at the end of that year. Keep checking the website for news of abstract submission and registration.

And, lastly, do check out the call for submissions to the latest Special Issue of our journal, IRSS.

Some social media news: Our Facebook pages seem to have a fair amount of traffic, which is great, but I think we could improve traffic on our LinkedIn page. If you have anything to

promote (relevant jobs, published journal articles or other writings, workshops, etc), why not add @International Sociology of Sport Association in your announcement to make it more visible and at the same time promote ISSA? Thank you.

Remember to send me your calls for papers and job announcements through ISSA's contact page (select Vice-President Communications). These will be posted on the news page of our website and the link will be publicised through our social media channels.

A wee heads up for 2027: The elections for the next Executive Board will take place in 2027. Watch out for updates about this in the course of the next few weeks.

Emmanuelle Tulle

VP Communications

[EASS-ISSA 2026: Some reflections](#)





It was a true pleasure to gather with over 380 colleagues representing 42 countries from around the world at the 2026 EASS–ISSA Joint World Congress for the Sociology of Sport at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, an occasion that vividly demonstrated the strength and vitality of our field. On behalf of the International Sociology of Sport Association, I extend my warmest appreciation to our European Association for Sociology of Sport partners, whose collegiality and care made this joint Congress such a memorable success. The stimulating scholarship, thoughtful conversations, and welcoming spirit throughout the Congress affirmed the importance of sustained international collaboration in advancing critical research on sport and society. Finland provided a wonderful setting for reconnecting with longstanding friends, welcoming new members of our scholarly community, and celebrating the diversity of perspectives that enrich our work. I left this Congress with deep gratitude for our shared sociological engagement with sport.

Parissa Safai

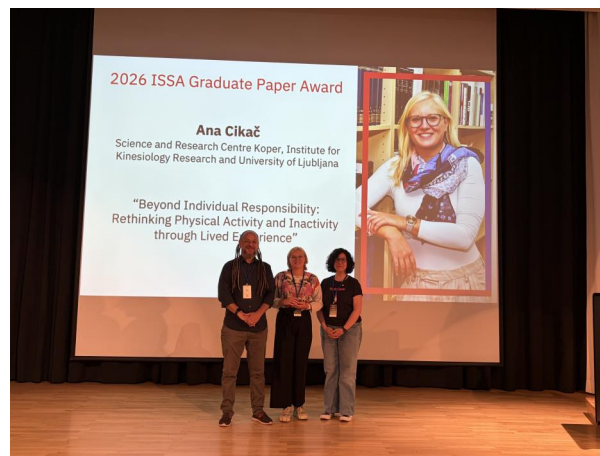
ISSA President

[Our 2026 Award Winners](#)

[GPA Award winner and Honourable Mention](#)

This year we received 6 submissions to our GPA and our Reviewers were delighted to be able to have one winner and one honourable mention.

We are pleased that both recipients were able to attend the conference and thus they were presented with their prizes on stage in front of an enthusiastic audience.



Congratulations to Ana Cikač, the winner of the GPA 2026, for her paper entitled "Beyond Individual Responsibility: Rethinking Physical Activity And Inactivity Through Lived Experience". Anna Cikač is at the Institute for Kinesiology Research, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia Faculty for Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.



Congratulations to Alana Richardson, the recipient of our Honourable mention, for her paper entitled "Money Talks: An exploration of the impact, challenges and tensions of implementing an unrestricted fund in girl-focused sport for development and peace". Alana is at the German Sport University in Cologne.

[Honourable Member Award](#)

We also celebrated the induction of the newest ISSA Honorary Member, Elizabeth C.J. Pike (United Kingdom) who was nominated by Jay Coakley, Kari Fasting and Christine Dallaire. In the words of Past-President Christine Dallaire, "I can think of no individual more deserving of this recognition. Professor Pike embodies the very ideals of ISSA – academic excellence, integrity, inclusivity, and a deep commitment to advancing the sociological study of

sport.”



Graduate Paper Award 2027

Are you a graduate student with a paper in draft form or an emergent idea? You can start thinking of submitting a paper to our 2027 Graduate Paper Award competition. We have a deadline for submissions: 14th February, 2027

For guidance on eligibility and how to submit, do visit our [website](#)

EASS-ISSA 2026: Photo Gallery part 1

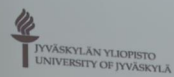
I seem to have started something, photo galleries! Here is a selection of photos from the Opening Ceremony of EASS-ISSA 2027 with a wee snippet of the entertainment!

All photo credits @Emmanuelle









Welcome and celebration

Celebrating 25 years of EASS

Michał Lenartowicz / EASS
Parissa Safai / ISSA











2 - @EASS

ISA News



ISA has refreshed its website. Check it out [here!](#)

ISA2027 RC27 in Gwangju, S. Korea

The ISA 2027 World Congress, “Global Sociology in Turbulent Times,” will be held from July 4-10 in Gwangju, South Korea. To find out more information about the Congress, please go here: [go here](#)

ISSA will be hosting several RC27 sessions. Abstract submission remains open till 14 October. You can find a list of RC27 session themes [here](#)

Abstract submission is still open, until 14th October 2026. You can access the [ISA Congress System here](#)

We look forward to your abstracts and to seeing you in Gwangju next July!

ISSA 2027 in Melbourne, Australia



ISSA 2027 will be held at the University of Victoria in Melbourne. 30th November-3rd December 2027

The Congress website is now live! Keep an eye on updates. You can access via the ISSA website or directly.

Our keynote speaker will be Dr Raewyn Connell, Professor Emerita, at the University of Sydney.

<https://www.issa1965.org/events/>

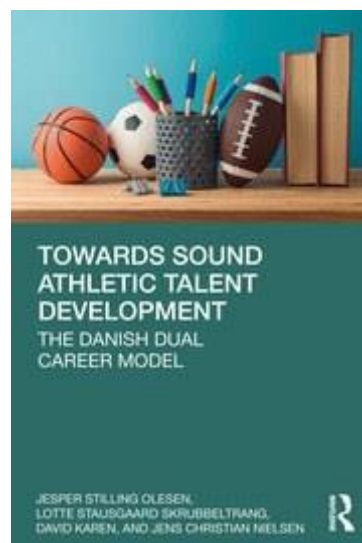
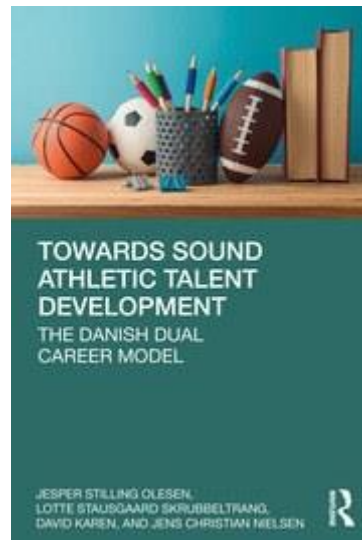
<https://event.fourwaves.com/issa2027>

Upcoming ISSA Elections

In accordance with the Statutes, the ISSA elections will take place in 2027 to select a new Executive Board for the period 2028- 2031. More information will be shared with ISSA members in the new year about the elections including the nomination process and eligibility criteria for those interested in running, although, if you are considering putting yourself forward for nomination, some information can be found on our [website here](#)

Should a UK-based resident not be elected to the 2028-2031 Executive Board, we will invite expressions of interest from UK-based ISSA members to serve as the ISSA UK Banking Officer. More details on that in due course.

New Books



[Towards Sound Athletic Talent Development: The Danish Dual Career Model, Routledge](#)

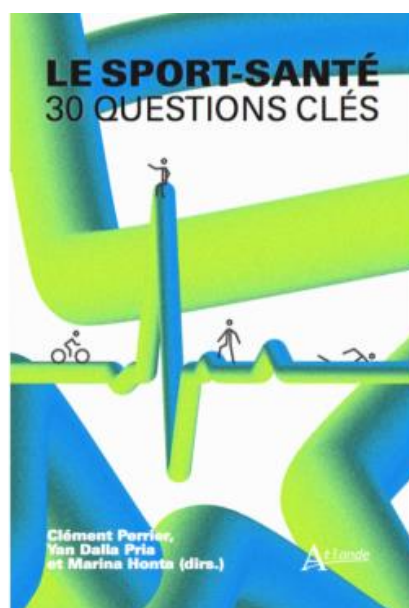
Jesper Stilling Olesen, Lotte Stausgaard Skrubbeltrang, David Karen, Jens Christian Nielsen (eds)

Towards Sound Athletic Talent Development addresses a fundamental question in its comprehensive analysis of Denmark's unique approach to early athletic talent development: How can we develop world-class athletes without compromising their well-being, education, or identity? Central to Denmark's approach, the book shows, is a commitment to "sound" development, a carefully constructed path that balances the pursuit of elite performance

with the broader needs of growing individuals, and a path in which the authors explore in depth in this book.

Grounded in the Danish experience, the book examines how young athletes aged 12–16 navigate the dual demands of sport and school, and how institutions can support them in doing so. Drawing from survey, interview, and observational data, the authors reject the notion that talent is simply innate and instead argue that athletic ability is socially constructed – emerging from relationships with coaches, clubs, schools, and communities. From this premise, they weave an analytically driven narrative that documents on the one hand how these programs within the Danish approach shape not only sporting skills but also identities, values, and social connections. On the other hand, its focus on collaboration, flexibility, and holistic growth compels us to reconsider how talent can be developed in a broad sense.

Ranging from the personal experiences of student-athletes to the national policies that shape their opportunities, the book offers timely research for those interested in the relationship between sport and education and sport and society, and its insights stretch beyond to educators, policymakers, and sports professionals worldwide.



[Le Sport-Santé: 30 questions clé, Editions Atlande, Paris](#)

Clément Perrier, Yan Dalla Pria, Marina Honta (eds)

D'addition à vieillissement, ce dictionnaire interroge cette mode en trente questions clefs comme "Le sport : facteur d'addiction ou ressource thérapeutique ? ", "L'entreprise, un espace légitime de promotion du sport-santé ? ", "Le sport permet-il de surmonter son handicap ? ", "Pourquoi devrions-nous nous intéresser à la santé mentale de nos champions sportifs ?", "L'exposition aux risques corporels liés à la pratique sportive : qui, pourquoi et comment ?"

Paré de toutes les vertus, le sport-santé va-t-il nous faire vivre plus longtemps en bonne santé ? Comblent le trou de la sécu ? Recoudre le lien social au travail ? Remettre l'École sur des rails sains ? Rédigé par une trentaine de spécialistes et praticiens et unique en son genre, ce volume éclairera le grand public autant qu'il guidera les professionnels et initiera les étudiants.

L'ouvrage dénonce les hypocrisies telles que les nombreuses exhortations publiques non financées, les arrières-pensées managériales de certains patrons ou la marchandisation du bien-être. Notamment inspiré des exemples québécois ou écossais, il ouvre aussi de nombreuses portes et perspectives pour chaque citoyen-patient-et-sportif-en-puissance aussi bien que pour les professionnels de santé et du sport.



[The Future of Football Social, Cultural and Economic Perspectives](#)

Paolo Corvo and Alessandro Porrovecchio (eds)

This book explores football's evolution from a community-based sport to a global entertainment industry, examining the profound social, economic, cultural, and technological forces reshaping the world's most popular game.

Through interdisciplinary research and critical inquiry, the contributors explore football's changing landscape across multiple dimensions, from the shifting roles of players, coaches, and referees to the transformation of fans from passionate supporters to global consumers. This book provides fresh perspectives on pressing contemporary issues, including the impact of technologies such as VAR on officiating, the tension between local identity and global commercialisation, and controversial initiatives such as the Super League. Its comprehensive examination of how football's commercialisation and mediatisation have fundamentally altered the sport's relationship with communities' challenges traditional notions of belonging while creating new forms of engagement. Each chapter combines theoretical frameworks with empirical evidence to illuminate the complex interplay between football's

emotional roots and its increasingly business-driven model, offering insights into whether these seemingly opposing forces can coexist in the sport's future.

IRSS News



Message from the Editor

It has been a busy time in the journal over the last 12 months, and the large number of submissions has resulted in a bumper issue 6 of Volume 61. Of particular interest is the diversity of papers coming through to IRSS. Issue 6 is full of highlights with a focus on gyms and body culture, doping, fandom and Azerbaijani Turks in Iran, women and sport in Saudi Arabia, children and their voices, and cricket, sledging and disability. A massive thank you to all of those in the Sociology of Sport community and others who continue to provide peer review for the journal.

[Women, sport and social inclusion in Saudi Arabia](#)

[Reconsidering anthropocentrism: Local young people's perspectives on the 2018 Winter Olympics' developmental and environmental impact](#)

[Aspiring against the odds: Women Strength and Conditioning coaches in a gendered landscape](#)

[Blind spenders? The social meaning of money in youth sport](#)

[Breaking the mold or reinforcing norms? The digital construction of female athletes' bodies on TikTok](#)

[Following, watching, and attending: Fandom of women's sport in the UK and USA](#)

[Sociological analysis of academic discussions on doping](#)

["Adults know what's best for children!": A critical narrative analysis of children's participation rights in sports](#)

[Civil repair and children's sports: The Norwegian welfare-state's reconstruction of unhealthy, undemocratic and unsafe sports](#)

[Adult minority women's experiences of belonging through sport and recreational activities](#)

[The gendered effect of gender-neutral anti-doping policy: Women athletes and their lived experience](#)

["You are expected to do everything right" – Exercise norms in the gym as a frame for potential \(not\) belonging: A norm-critical exploration](#)

[Football, identity and nationalism: A sociological analysis of 'Tractor' fan culture](#)

[Equal to, different from, better than: The multiple bodies of women Olympic Weightlifters](#)

[Beyond the boundaries of humour: Disabled cricketers' experiences of sledging](#)

[Call for Submissions to our most recent Special Issue](#)

Posthumanism, Sport, and the Moving Body

Editors: Allison Jeffrey, Pirkko Markula

Synopsis

Posthumanism can take many forms, but the purpose for this special issue is to embrace Deleuze's posthumanism as an approach that can expand ways of thinking about and doing research in sport, physical activity contexts. In this special issue, we welcome paper submissions that address the intricacies of Deleuzian theory through creative/exploratory/innovative research that can bring new insights to the doing of posthumanism with moving bodies. Articles accepted for this special issue will feature works by researchers who share a common interest in projects that consider the opportunities and challenges of Deleuze's philosophy for social science research going beyond humanist qualitative methodologies and methods. Throughout this special issue, we further aim to share scholarly possibilities to think differently about how the physically active body can actualize change in the complex contemporary world.

The main objectives are:

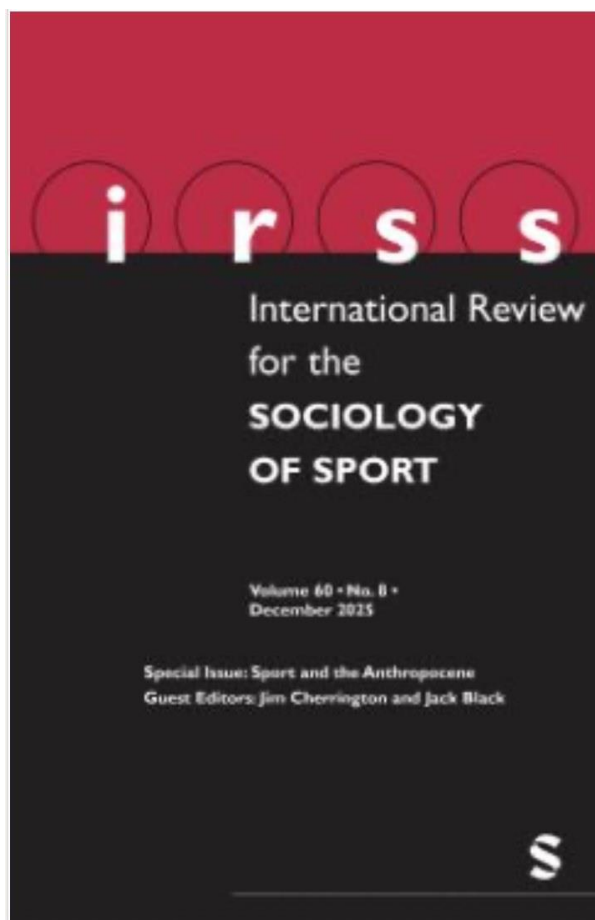
- To feature Deleuzian analyses that engage with moving bodies in the fields of sport and physical activity research, including movement practices that are broadly-defined;
- To advance innovation in posthumanist methodologies to examine the moving body in sport and physical activity;
- To offer Deleuzian-informed insights that consider changes for the practices of moving bodies in sport and physical activity.

This special issue aims to explore, but is not limited to, the following main themes:

- Deleuzian theory in research that explores moving bodies through a posthumanist lens;

- Deleuzian inspired posthumanist methodologies for studying sport and physical activity that expand beyond traditional humanist qualitative conventions;
- The role of Deleuzian-inspired research on practices in real-world contexts in sport and physical activity;
- Deleuze's philosophy and arts-informed and/or creative/innovative anti-foundationalist methodologies;
- Possibilities of Deleuzian posthumanist philosophy for actualizing positive change in sport and physical activity practices.

Submission deadline: end of July 2027



Our journal's general editor, Brent McDonald, encourages the submission of diverse research articles seated in the sociology of sport, broadly defined, that shed light on social and cultural understandings of sport.

[Becoming a Reviewer](#)

Being a reviewer gives you an insight into the publication process and a better understanding of how to develop your own research and publications. The easiest way to become a reviewer is to create an account through [this link](#)

Managing your Account

If you already have an account for the *IRSS* do remember to keep it updated.

Please visit the journal website for more information about its Aims & Scope, the Editorial Board, manuscript submission guidelines, and sample issues [here](#)

Regular ISSA Calls

Members' News

ISSA is happy to share information about conferences, seminars, awards, jobs and recently published books. We will gladly include your news in our eBulletin and the ISSA website. ISSA is always looking for ways to improve communication and serve our members. We encourage you to submit comments and suggestions.

Please send any feedback and information to Emmanuelle Tulle via our contact page on our [website](#). Remember that ISSA also has its own Facebook page, and you are welcome to share information via this group.

Call for ISSA Archives

The ISSA Executive Board is calling on all past and current members to submit photos, documents and other materials that document the history of the association, congresses and journal. We will gladly accept any items either in digital or hard copy format. We will be happy to copy and return these to you, or to add relevant items to the ISSA Archive as part of our ongoing efforts to record the history of the ISSA and IRSS. We are particularly hoping to obtain copies of ISSA Congress programs and Books of Abstract prior to 2011. For further information about the Archive and/or to donate items, please contact Parissa Safai on our [website](#)

Share Your Reading Recommendations

Have you read a good sports related book lately? Send us your favourite titles (not your own books, see earlier announcement!) that you think ISSA colleagues might also be interested in reading, with a short blurb to entice us.

Contact Emmanuelle Tulle via our [website](#)



ISSA's Affiliate Organisations:

Research Committee 27 of ISA

Sub-Committee of ICSSPE

Affiliated with UNESCO